

heal them. Yet those divisions do not define America. We felt the unity and fellowship of our Nation when freedom came under attack, and our response came like a single hand over a single heart. We can feel that same unity and pride whenever America acts for good, and the victims of disaster are given hope, and the unjust encounter justice, and the captives are set free.

(Applause.)

We go forward with complete confidence in the eventual triumph of freedom. Not because history runs on the wheels of inevitability; it is human choices that move events. Not because we consider ourselves a chosen nation; God moves and chooses as He wills. We have confidence because freedom is the permanent hope of mankind, the hunger and dark places, the longing of the soul. When our Founders declared a new order of the ages, when soldiers died in wave upon wave for a union based on liberty, when citizens marched in peaceful outrage under the banner "Freedom Now," they were acting on ancient hope that is meant to be fulfilled. History has an ebb and flow of justice, but history also has a visible direction, set by liberty and the Author of Liberty.

(Applause.)

When the Declaration of Independence was first read in public and the Liberty Bell was sounded in celebration, a witness said, "It rang as if it meant something." In our time, it means something still. America, in this young century, proclaims liberty throughout the world, and to all the inhabitants thereof. Renewed in our strength—tested but not weary—we are ready for the greatest achievements in the history of freedom.

(Applause.)

May God bless you, and may He watch over the United States of America.

(Applause.)

Mr. LOTT. At this time, I would like to present a unique performance combining the U.S. Marine Band, the Navy Sea Chanters, and the Army of Herald Trumpets, performing "God of our Fathers."

(Musical performance.)

Mr. LOTT. Please stand as Pastor KirbyJon Caldwell will deliver the benediction, and then please remain standing for the national anthem, which will be led by TSgt Bradley Bennett from the U.S. Air Force Band. Following the national anthem, please remain in place while the official party departs the platform. Pastor Caldwell.

Rev. CALDWELL. Thank you, Senator LOTT. Let us pray, please.

O Lord God Almighty, the supply and supplier of faith and freedom, how excellent is Your name in all the Earth. You are great and gratefully to be praised. O God, as we conclude this 55th inaugural ceremony, we conclude it with an attitude of thanksgiving.

Thank You for protecting America's borders. After all, as the Psalmist reminds us, unless You, O God, guard the territory, our efforts will be in vain.

Thank You for our armed service personnel. And it is with unswerving thanksgiving that we pause to remember the persons who have made the ultimate sacrifice to help ensure America's safety. Thank You, O God, for surrounding our personnel, their families, their friends, and our allies with Your favor and Your faithfulness. Deploy Your host from Heaven so that Your will for America will be performed on Earth as it is already perfected in Heaven.

I confess that Your face will shine upon the United States of America, granting us social peace and economic prosperity, particularly for the weary and the poor.

I also confess, O God, that each American's latter days will be better than their former days. Let it be unto us according to Your words. Rally the Republicans, the Democrats, and the Independents around Your common good so that America will truly become one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty, justice, and equal opportunity for all, including the least, the last, and the lost.

Bless every elected official right now. O God, I declare Your blessings to shower upon our President, George W. Bush. Bless him, his family, and his administration. I once again declare that no weapon against them shall prosper. God, forgive us for becoming so ensnared in petty partisan politics that we miss Your glory and forget our purpose. Deliver us from the evil one, from evil itself, and from the mere appearance of evil. Give us clean hearts so that we might have clean agendas, clean priorities and programs, and even clean financial statements.

And now unto You, O God, the one who always has been and always will be the one King of Kings and the true power broker, we glorify and honor You. Respecting persons of all faiths, I humbly submit this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREE- MENT—EXECUTIVE NOMINA- TIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. As in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the nominations to the Office of Inspector General, except the Office of Inspector General of the Central Intelligence Agency, be referred in each case to the committee having primary jurisdiction over the department, agency, or entity, and if and when reported in each case, then to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs for not to exceed 20 calendar days, except in cases when the 20-day period expires while the Senate is in recess, the committee shall have 5 addi-

tional calendar days after the Senate reconvenes to report the nomination, and that if the nomination is not reported after the expiration of that period, the nomination be automatically discharged and placed on the executive calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 105 (adopted April 13, 1989), as amended by S. Res. 149 (adopted October 5, 1993), as amended by Public Law 105-275, further amended by S. Res. 75 (adopted March 25, 1999), and S. Res. 383 (adopted October 27, 2000) the appointment of the following Senator to serve as a member of the Senate National Security Working Group for the 109th Congress: Senator WILLIAM H. FRIST of Tennessee (Majority Administrative Co-Chairman).

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 94-304, as amended by Public Law 99-7, appoints the following Senator as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki) during the 109th Congress: Senator SAM BROWBACK of Kansas.

#### ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2005

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m. on Monday, January 24; I further ask that following the prayer and the pledge the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and there then be a period of morning business until 3 p.m., with the first half of that time under the control of the majority leader or his designee, and the remaining time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee; provided that at 3 p.m. the Senate proceed to executive session, as provided under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PROGRAM

Mr. McCONNELL. On Monday, following morning business, the Senate will begin debate on the nomination of Carlos Gutierrez to be Secretary of Commerce. We have not received any requests for a rollcall vote on the Gutierrez nomination and it is expected we will be able to dispose of that nomination on a voice vote. Therefore, no rollcall votes are expected during Monday's session. We

will continue to work through the President's nominations as they become available. We will have more to say with respect to the voting schedule next week.

I also remind all of my colleagues that we were able to lock in a time agreement on the nomination of Condoleezza Rice to be Secretary of State. We will debate the Rice nomination throughout the day Tuesday and vote on that nomination on Wednesday of next week.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,  
JANUARY 24, 2005, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:09 p.m., adjourned until January 24, 2005, at 2 p.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate Thursday, January 20, 2005:

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MARGARET SPELLINGS, OF TEXAS, TO BE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MIKE JOHANNIS, OF NEBRASKA, TO BE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

THE ABOVE NOMINATION WAS APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEE'S COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.